to be achieved in a phased manner depending on the overall availability of resources.

Cargo transfer system at Vishakhapatnam Port

1047. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in container traffic at the Vishakhapatnam port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to modernise and introduce sophisticated cargo transfer system for containers in that Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of container traffic handled through Visakhapatnam Port during the last five years and the growth rates achieved are as under:—

Year	TEU's Handled	Growth Rate	Tonnage Handled	Growth Rate
1995-96	8446	—	93693	—
1996-97	13117	(+) 55%	166294	(+) 77%
1997-98	12608	(−) 38%	146005	(−) 12%
1998-99	14307	(+) 3.48%	172081	(+) 18%
1999-00	20427	(+) 42.80%	262356	(+) 52%

(c) A separate berth for containers has been commissioned on 3.7.2000. The length of the berth is being expanded to 449 mtrs. and draft is also proposed to be increased to 16 mtrs. Modern equipment at this berth are to be installed through private sector. A Container Freight Station and additional storage area are to be developed. The container berth connectivity through road and rail connection is planned in the future. Other required infrastructure facilities and equipment and stuffing and destuffing facilities are also planned.